

Claim Amendments:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) An attachment mechanism for a first object to be releasably attached to a second object, comprising:
 - a first adhering unit that has a first adhering surface for adhering to the first object, and a second adhering surface;
 - a backer/stabilizer that has a first surface that is adhered to the second adhering surface of the first adhering unit;
 - a first releasably attachable unit that has a front side with a releasably attachable surface and a back side that is adhered to a second surface of the backer/stabilizer;
 - a second releasably attachable unit that has a front side with a releasably attachable surface and which is configured to be releasably attached to the front side of the first releasably attachable unit; and
 - a second adhering unit that has a first adhering surface for adhering to a back side of the second releasably attachable unit, and a second adhering surface for adhering to a surface of the second object.
2. (Withdrawn) The attachment device according to claim 1, wherein the backer/stabilizer is one of styrofoam, wood, plastic, cardboard, spongy material, card stock, and any combination thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) An attachment device for a first object to be releasably attached to a second object, comprising:

a backer/stabilizer that has a first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface, the backer/stabilizer being either a semi-rigid or a semi-rigid element;

a first releasably attachable unit that has a front side with a releasably attachable surface and a back side that is adhered to the second surface of the backer/stabilizer;

a second releasably attachable unit that has a front side with a releasably attachable surface and which is configured to be releasably attached to the front side of the first releasably attachable unit;

an adhesive unit that has a first adhering surface for adhering to a back side of the second releasably attachable unit, and a second adhering surface for adhering to a surface of the second object; and

means for attaching the backer/stabilizer to the first object, ~~the means for attaching being a separate component from the backer/stabilizer.~~

4. (Original) The attachment device according to claim 3, wherein the means for attaching includes at least one of stapling, gluing, sewing, tying and taping the backer/stabilizer to the first object.

5. (Currently Amended) The attachment device according to claim 3, wherein the ~~attaching~~ means for attaching comprises:

connecting means for connecting to a portion of the first object to attach the first object to the backer/stabilizer, the connecting means being integrally formed as part of the backer/stabilizer.

6. (Previously Presented) The attachment device according to claim 5, wherein the connecting means is one of: a protruding region for coupling to a cavity portion of the first object, and a cavity region for coupling to a protruding portion of the first object.

7. (Original) The attachment device according to claim 3, wherein the backer/stabilizer is one of plastic, cardboard, and card stock.

8. (Currently Amended) An attachment device for a first object to be releasably attached to a second object, the attachment device comprising:

an affixing element having first and second ends;

a backer/stabilizer that has a first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface, the backer/stabilizer including a first opening and a second opening, the backer/stabilizer being ~~one of either~~ a rigid ~~and or~~ a non-rigid element;

a first releasably attachable unit that has a front side with a releasably attachable surface and a back side that is adhered to a second surface of the backer/stabilizer;

a second releasably attachable unit that has a front side with a releasably attachable surface which is configured to be releasably attached to the front side of the first releasably attachable unit; and

an adhesive strip that has a first adhering surface for adhering to a back side of the second releasably attachable unit, and a second adhering surface for adhering to a surface of the second object,

wherein the first end of the affixing element is fitted through the first opening of the backer/stabilizer and the second end of the affixing element is fitted through the second opening of the backer/stabilizer, and

wherein, after having been respectively fitted through the first and second openings, the first and second ends of the affixing element are coupled together to provide a coupling of the first object to the backer/stabilizer.

9. (Original) The attachment device according to claim 8, wherein the backer/stabilizer is one of plastic, cardboard, and card stock.

10. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) An attachment device for releasably attaching a first object to a second object, comprising:

a coupling component;

a backer/stabilizer having at least two regions for receiving respective ends of the elastic band;

a first releasably attachable pad that is adhesively coupled to one surface of the backer/stabilizer,

wherein a portion of the elastic band is disposed between the first releasably attachable pad and the one surface of the backer/stabilizer;

a second releasably attachable pad that has a first releasably attachable surface that is configured to be releasably coupled to the first releasably attachable pad; and

an adhesive material provided on a second, non- releasably attachable surface of the second releasably attachable pad,

wherein the adhesive material is ~~adapted to be~~ adhered to the second object, and

wherein the coupling component is ~~adapted to be~~ fitted around a portion of the first object.

11. (Withdrawn) The attachment device according to claim 10, wherein the at least two regions of the backer/stabilizer are one of: a) at least two holes passing from the top surface to the bottom surface of the backer/stabilizer, and b) at least two openings formed at respective ends of the backer/stabilizer.

12. (Previously Presented) The attachment device according to claim 9, wherein the backer/stabilizer includes a channel portion formed on the second surface of the backer/stabilizer, for holding the affixing element in place.

13. (Withdrawn) The attachment device according to claim 11, wherein the backer/stabilizer is one of plastic, cardboard, and card stock.

14. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A reusable ornament for attachment to an object, comprising:

an ornamental portion; and

a coupling portion for coupling the ornamental portion to the object,
wherein the coupling portion includes:
a ribbon for wrapping around the object, the ribbon including:
a first releasably attachable pad provided adjacent a first end of the ribbon on a first surface of the ribbon;
a second releasably attachable pad provided adjacent a second end of the ribbon on a second surface of the ribbon opposite the first surface; and
means for attaching the ribbon to the ornamental portion,
wherein the first and second releasably attachable units are ~~adapted to be~~ attached to each other when the ribbon is wrapped around the object.

15. – 20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) A method for constructing an attachment device for releasably attaching a first object to a second object, comprising:
attaching a backer/stabilizer to the first object;
attaching a non-releasably attachable surface of a first releasably attachable ~~pad~~ unit to the backer/stabilizer;
attaching a non-releasably attachable surface of a second releasably attachable ~~pad~~ unit to the second object; and
coupling respective releasably attachable surfaces of the first and second releasably attachable ~~pads~~ units to each other.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the backer/stabilizer is attached to the first object by one of an adhesive material, glue, staple and sewing thread.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, further comprising:

removing a peel-off protective cover on one surface of the backer/stabilizer prior to attaching the backer/stabilizer to the first object.

24. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A reusable ribbon for attachment to an object, comprising:

a first male releasable attaching means disposed adjacent to a first end of the ribbon on a first surface of the ribbon; and

a second female releasable attaching means disposed adjacent to a second end of the ribbon on a second surface of the ribbon,

wherein the first male releasable attaching means and the second female releasable attaching means are ~~adapted to be~~ releasably attached to each other to thereby wrap the ribbon around the object.

25. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The reusable ribbon according to claim 24, further comprising:

a third releasable attaching means provided on the first surface of the ribbon,

wherein the third releasable attaching means is ~~adapted to be~~ coupled to a second object, to thereby releasably attach the second object to the object when the ribbon is wrapped around the object.

26. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The reusable ribbon according to claim 24, further comprising:

a third releasable attaching means provided on the second surface of the ribbon,
wherein the third releasable attaching means is ~~adapted to be~~ coupled to a second object, to thereby releasably attach the second object to the object when the ribbon is wrapped around the object

27. (Withdrawn) The reusable ribbon according to claim 26, further comprising:
a bow having a fourth releasable attaching means for coupling to the third releasable attaching means of the ribbon.

28. (Withdrawn) An attachment device for a first object to be releasably attached to a second object, comprising:

a backer/stabilizer that is provided on a first portion of the attachment device, the backer/stabilizer having a first surface and a second surface opposite the first surface;

a first releasably attachable pad that has a front side with a releasably attachable surface and a back side that is adhered to a second surface of the backer/stabilizer;

a second releasably attachable pad that has a front side with a releasably attachable surface and which is configured to be releasably attached to the front side of the first releasably attachable pad;

means for attaching the backer/stabilizer to the first object; and

a card portion that is provided on a second portion of the attachment device, the card portion being separable from the first portion by tearing along a perforated line that separates the first portion from the second portion.

29. (Withdrawn) The attachment device according to claim 28, further comprising:

a hanger portion that is provided on a third portion of the attachment device with the second portion being disposed between the first portion and the third portion, the hanger portion being separable from the second portion by tearing along a perforated line that separates the third portion from the second portion,

the hanger portion being used to hang the attachment device onto a display rack.

30. - 33. (Canceled).

34. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) An attachment mechanism for a first object to be releasably attached to a second object and later to a third object, comprising:

a backer/stabilizer;

means for attaching the backer/stabilizer to the first object;

an adhesive unit having first and second adhesive surfaces, such that ~~is configured to adhere~~ the adhesive unit adheres to the backer/stabilizer by way of the first adhesive surface,

and such that ~~is configured to adhere~~ the adhesive unit adheres to the second object by way of the second adhesive surface,

wherein, after the backer/stabilizer has been deattached from the second object and prior to reuse of the backer/stabilizer and the first object for attachment to the third object, the adhesive unit is removed from the backer/stabilizer to allow another adhesive unit to be adhered thereto.

35. – 42. (Canceled).

43. (Withdrawn) An attachment device for attaching a first object to a second object, comprising:

a backer/stabilizer that is provided on a first portion of the attachment device;

means for attaching the backer/stabilizer to the first object;

means for attaching the backer/stabilizer to the second object;

a hanger portion that is provided on a second portion of the attachment device, the hanger portion allowing the attachment device to be hung on a display device; and

perforating means provided on the attachment device to allow a user to separate the first portion from the second portion.

44. (Previously Presented) The attachment mechanism according to claim 8, wherein the first and second ends of the affixing element are coupled together in a region between the second surface of the backer/stabilizer and the back side of the first releasably attachable unit.

45. (Currently Amended) The attachment mechanism according to claim 12, wherein the first and second ends are coupled together and fitted within the channel portion on the ~~bottom~~ second surface of the backer/stabilizer.

46. (Previously Presented) The attachment mechanism according to claim 44, wherein the first and second ends of the affixing element are disposed against the first surface of the backer/stabilizer.

47. (Withdrawn from Consideration? – Currently Amended) An attachment method for releasably attaching a first object to a second object ~~and later to a third object~~, comprising:

affixing a backer/stabilizer to the first object by way of an affixing element that has first and second ends, the backer/stabilizer providing a stable backing for the first object, the backer/stabilizer having at least one opening for receiving one of the first and second ends of the affixing element to provide a coupling of the affixing element to the backer/stabilizer when the first and second ends are tied together;

releasably adhering a first releasable adhering unit to the backer/stabilizer and to the second object, the first releasable adhering unit having first and second adhesive surfaces which correspond to top and bottom surfaces of the first releasable adhering unit, in which the first adhesive surface is releasably adhered to the backer/stabilizer, and in which the second adhesive surface is releasably adhered to the second object; and

thereafter, deattaching the second object from the second adhesive surface of the first releasable adhering unit and deattaching the backer/stabilizer from the first adhesive surface of the first releasable adhering unit;

~~thereafter, releasably attaching a first adhesive surface of a second releasable adhering unit to the backer/stabilizer and releasably attaching a second adhesive surface of the second releasable adhering unit to the third object.~~

48. (Previously Presented – Withdrawn from Consideration?) The attachment mechanism according to claim 47, wherein the first and second releasable adhering units each corresponds to a double-sided releasable adhesive strip.

49. (Previously Presented – Withdrawn from Consideration?) The attachment mechanism according to claim 48, wherein the first and second releasable adhering units each includes a non-adhesive tab portion.

50. (Currently Amended) The attachment device according to claim 8, wherein the backer/stabilizer is a plastic part, and wherein a portion of the affixing element is integrally formed within the backer/stabilizer ~~by heating the backer/stabilizer while fitting the affixing element onto the backer/stabilizer.~~

51. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein the backer/stabilizer is formed out of plastic, the method further comprising:

~~melting~~ heating the backer/stabilizer while at a same time fitting an affixing element onto the backer/stabilizer, to thereby form a composite structure in which the backer/stabilizer is rigidly coupled to the affixing element and in which the affixing element is utilized to attach the backer/stabilizer to the first object.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 51, wherein the affixing element is one of: a wire, an elastic band, a string, a plastic tie, and an adjustable ring.

53. (Currently Amended) An attachment device for a first object to be releasably attached to a second object, the attachment device comprising:

an affixing element having first and second ends, ~~the affixing element configured to be affixed to the first object;~~

a backer/stabilizer that has a first surface facing the first object and a second surface opposite the first surface, the backer/stabilizer including at least one opening for receiving one of the first and second ends of the affixing element;

a ~~releasably attachable/deattachable~~ releasable attachment unit that has a first releasable attachable surface and a second releasably attachable surface opposite to the first releasably attachable surface,

wherein the first releasably attachable surface of the releasable attachment unit is releasably attached to the second surface of the backer/stabilizer,

wherein the second releasably attachable surface of the releasable attachment unit is releasably attached to the second object,

~~wherein the releasably attachable/deattachable unit can be releasably deattached from the backer/stabilizer and from the second object without causing any damage to the backer/stabilizer and to the second object, and~~

wherein the affixing element affixes the first object to the backer/stabilizer.

54. (Currently Amended) The attachment device according to claim 53, wherein the backer/stabilizer has two openings in which the first end of the affixing element is fitted through one of the two openings and in which the second end of the affixing element is fitted through the other of the two openings, and

wherein the first and second ends of the affixing element are tied together to form a closed-loop affixing element, and

wherein the first and second ends of the affixing elements are disposed between and thereby sandwiched between the backer/stabilizer and the ~~releasably attachable/deattachable~~ releasable attachment unit.

55. (New) A device for releasably attaching a first object to a second object, comprising:

a releasable attachment unit that has a first surface for releasable attachment to a backer/stabilizer and a second surface for releasable attachment to the second object, the first surface and the second surface being on opposite sides of the releasable attachment unit;

the backer/stabilizer releasably attached to the first surface of the releasable attachment unit, the backer/stabilizer providing backing and stability for the first object when the backer/stabilizer is affixed to the first object; and

an affixing element that affixes the first object to the backer/stabilizer,

wherein the first surface of the releasable attachment unit is releasably attached to the backer/stabilizer.

56. (New) The device according to claim 55, wherein the affixing element is integrally formed as a part of the backer/stabilizer.

57. (New) The device according to claim 56, wherein the affixing element is of a same material composition as the backer/stabilizer.

58. (New) The device according to claim 56, wherein the affixing element corresponds to a cylinder having an opening, the cylinder being disposed in a substantially middle portion on a top surface of the backer/stabilizer,

wherein the first object includes a post, and

wherein a bottom portion of the post of the first object is fitted within the opening of the cylinder, to thereby affix the first object to the backer/stabilizer.

59. (New) The device according to claim 56, wherein the affixing element corresponds to a post disposed at a substantially middle portion on a top surface of the backer/stabilizer, and

wherein the first object includes a cylinder having an opening therein, and

wherein the cylinder of the first object is fitted onto the post of the affixing element, to thereby affix the first object to the backer/stabilizer.

60. (New) The device according to claim 55, wherein the releasable attachment unit further comprises:

a first non-adhesive tab portion that abuts the first surface of the releasable attachment unit; and

a second non-adhesive tab portion that abuts the second surface of the releasable attachment unit,

wherein the first and second non-adhesive tab portions allow a user to deattach the releasable attachment unit from the second object by pulling on the first and second non-adhesive tab portions.

61. (New) The device according to claim 55, wherein the backer/stabilizer includes a first opening and a second opening that pass entirely through the backer/stabilizer, wherein the affixing element is separate from the backer/stabilizer and corresponds to a connecting element having a first end and a second end, and

wherein the first and second ends of the connecting element are fitted through the first and second openings of the backer/stabilizer, respectively, such that first and second portions of the connecting element are respectively disposed within the first and second openings of the backer/stabilizer.

62. (New) The device according to claim 55, wherein the first object corresponds to an ornamental ribbon or bow.

63. (New) The device according to claim 55, wherein the second object corresponds to gift wrap.

64. (New) The device according to claim 55, wherein the backer/stabilizer includes a first slot provided on a first side of the backer/stabilizer and a second slot provided on a second side of the backer/stabilizer opposite the first side,

wherein the affixing element is separate from the backer/stabilizer and corresponds to a connecting element having a first end and a second end, and

wherein the first and second ends of the connecting element are respectively disposed within the first and second slots of the backer/stabilizer, respectively, so as to couple the affixing element to the backer/stabilizer.

65. (New) The device according to claim 55, further comprising:
a peel-off protective cover that covers the second surface of the releasable attachment unit,

wherein the peel-off protective cover is removed to expose an adhesive surface of the releasable attachment unit.

66. (New) The device according to claim 55, wherein the affixing element is separate from the backer/stabilizer and corresponds to a connecting element having a first end and a second end,

wherein the backer/stabilizer includes a channel portion formed on a surface facing the releasable attachment unit, and

wherein the first and second ends of the connecting element are held in place within the channel portion of the backer/stabilizer.